

came to Washington with small business experience, and I hope to continue working in the business sector. The challenge, as I see it, is for future Congresses to protect the freedom that continues to create opportunity for us and future generations and to ensure that we have a secure America.

May God bless America, and may God bless Congress's future endeavors.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INMATE TAX FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7082, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7082) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose certain prisoner return information to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7082) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COM- MISSION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6296, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6296) to extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the

table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6296) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LET OUR VETERANS REST IN PEACE ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 778, H.R. 3480.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3480) to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate punishment enhancements for those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3480) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES ORGAN TRANSPLANT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, tragically, a month and a half ago, we lost a wonderful colleague of all of ours, Stephanie Tubbs Jones—Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a wonderful Congresswoman who, whenever you met her, had a big, broad smile on her face. She obviously loved her work on behalf of her country. All of us miss her.

There is legislation called the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Authorization Act of 2008. I have worked on it in the Senate. I provided a companion bill in the Senate. Yesterday, I worked with Dr. COBURN on the other side to resolve any differences. I understand it is still being reviewed. My hope is that this legislation will be enacted today. Let me describe the importance of this legislation.

We have more than 99,000 Americans right now awaiting organ transplantation. They are on a waiting list to find an organ. In fact, two-thirds of those on the waiting list are waiting because they suffer from end-stage renal disease, and they are waiting for a kidney transplant. About 6,000 who are on that waiting list will die this year. We know how to save them, but

they will die because they did not get a transplant—a kidney, heart, lung. They will die.

I have worked on this issue for many years. I recall some long while ago I worked on legislation that required every tax refund that went out to the American people in that year to be accompanied by a little sheet that told you how you could become an organ donor, how you could sign up. Seventy million Americans got a little piece of information on how to sign up to become an organ donor. On my driver's license in my wallet, it says "donor." It is pretty easy to do for most Americans.

As I indicated, two-thirds of those on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. Many will die before they get one. On the day the legislation that informed 70 million people how to become an organ donor passed, I held a press conference with a group of my colleagues. Senator Strom Thurmond came to the press conference. I believe Strom Thurmond was 90 years old then. He came to the press conference to sign a big plaque we had, to sign up as an organ donor at age 90.

You had to know Strom Thurmond to understand the irony. He was a remarkable American, a remarkable Member of the Senate. At age 90, he signed an organ donor card, and here is what he said: When I am gone, I don't know if I have anything anybody wants, but they are welcome to it. That was his notion of an organ donor card, and he signed up.

The fact is, not just in memory of our wonderful colleague, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, but in pursuit of doing the right thing. We can save a lot of lives by passing this legislation. This legislation will authorize an increase in the Federal contribution that has been the same since 1984. The Federal contribution to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

The Federal contribution to that network was \$2 million in 1984, and that is what it is today. This legislation proposes an increase in that authorization—not a major increase but an increase that will allow us to do greater work to try to match those available organs with those who desperately need a donation.

The good news is that patients no longer have to wait for someone to die, for example, to get a kidney. Living donations and paired donations have dramatically increased the number of kidney donations every year. That is saving lives and, by the way, saving taxpayers money. The cost of renal dialysis is very high.

I come to the Senate floor today only to say this is a very important piece of legislation for tens and tens of thousands of people in this country who even now are waiting for an organ transplant, some of whom will die before they get it. We can save many lives with this legislation.

My hope is that at the end of today we will have cleared the bill on both